

Secretary Melvin R. Laird, Dr. Howard A. Rusk,
and distinguished guests:

I am ~~greatly~~ ^{indeed} pleased that I have the honor of being one of the
sponsors of the dinner paying richly deserved tribute to Mary Lasker.
I am indeed distressed that due to a long standing previous engagement
I cannot be at the dinner.

We Alabamians were ~~mightly~~ ^{rightly} proud of the late Helen Keller,
our fellow Alabamian, who both deaf and blind, traveled the continents
of the world working and living for the health and well being of the
American people and of all peoples.

In a few moments there is no way of summing up what
Mary Lasker has done in the field of health and medical research over
the past three decades or more. Her persistence, her charm and her
vision bear personal witness. During the many years in which I
chaired both the Appropriations and the Legislative Committees on
Health in the United States Senate, my most frequent, dedicated and
effective visitor was the lady whom you honor tonight - Mary Lasker.

Whether it was the establishment of a new Institute or expanded
appropriations for an existing Institute, Mary Lasker let nothing dismay
her. I may state categorically and without any reservations that the
National Institutes of Health - the finest research consortium in the world -

owes its present pre-eminence more to Mary Lasker than to any person I know.

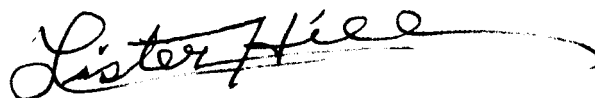
As United States Senator I learned a great deal from every one of Mary Lasker's visits. Above all, I learned the most important principle which guided my efforts in the 31 years I served in the Senate -- that basic research was of limited value until that point at which its results were transferred from the laboratory to the bedside of the patient.

I am therefore happy that you are honoring Mary Lasker for her past achievements, but secure in the knowledge that she will continue her divine mission of ~~nar~~arrowing the spectrum of ignorance and reaching towards the conquest of all diseases which still plague the family of man.

In closing, may I say that Mary Lasker exemplifies in the highest degree the observation made by that immortal man of medicine, Sir William Osler, at the beginning of the present century when he declared:

"We are here to add what we can to

Not to get what we can from -- Life."

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lister Hill". The signature is written in dark ink and features a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.